

# Hawaii MARINE

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Col. J. V. Medina

## Regiment receives new CO

**Cpl. Roman Yurek**  
*Combat Correspondent*

After serving two years as the 3rd Marine Regiment commanding officer, Col. R.B. Peele relinquished his command to Col. Joseph V. Medina in a change of command ceremony June 21 at Dewey Square.

Both of these Marines have commanded units "in every clime and place," but Col. Peele's next assignment as chief of staff for Marine Corps Recruiting Command, Quantico, Va., puts him closer to his birthplace of Portsmouth, Va.

Raised in Baltimore, Col. Peele began his career as an enlisted Marine in 1968.

Once he finished all his basic schools, he was ordered to Vietnam as a private first class.

He was attached to 3rd Bn., 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division.

Eight years after receiving his eagle, globe and anchor and ascending to the rank of sergeant, he was commissioned through the Platoon Leaders Course.

For his first assignment, Col. Peele was sent back to the first unit he served — 3rd Bn., 4th Marines. He served as a rifle platoon commander and 81mm Mortar Platoon commander from 1977 to 1978.

Later, he went onto the Army's Infantry Officers Advanced Course; Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided Weapon; Dragon; and Airborne schools in Fort Benning, Ga.

See REGIMENT, A-10



Col. R. B. Peele

## ASEK prepares for Exercise 'Koa Thunder'

**Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.**  
*Combat Correspondent*

What began as a simple training evolution for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit with support from the Aviation Support Element, Kaneohe, for Exercise "Koa Thunder" in Guam, has turned into a larger exercise than originally planned for the ASEK.

"What started out for us as small,

spotted deployments in support of the 31st MEU grew into a Special Purpose Marine Air/Ground Task Force in which the 1st Marine Air Wing tasked us to be the headquarters element," said Lt. Col. Douglas J. Wadsworth, executive officer for the SPMAGTF.

Major Gen. James E. Cartwright, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, and his staff are taking the opportunity "Koa Thunder" has provided to exercise

the ASEK headquarters, and test their ability to run a SPMAGTF, according to Lt. Col. Wadsworth.

"(1st MAW officials) are going to come and join us in Guam and give tactical missions and integrated training we have to execute over a week-long period," said Lt. Col. Wadsworth.

Training exercises will include a non-combatant evacuation exercise, tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel and an airfield

seizure to name a few of the events scheduled for the ASEK to handle in Guam.

Elements from Marine Aviation Logistics Support Element, Kaneohe, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadrons 362, 363, 463, Marine Helicopter Training Squadron 301, are scheduled to participate in the exercise under the ASEK.

Four heavy assault transport helicopters will be provided by HMH-463 for Koa Thunder, and two of

those four CH-53Ds are already at Anderson Air Force Base being assembled by an advanced party after their arrival by C-5 Galaxy on June 18.

Additional aviation units supporting "Koa Thunder" are Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport 152 and HMH-465 all are from Okinawa, Japan, as well as

See KOA THUNDER, A-10



Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible

The C-20 Gulfstream IV "Gray Ghost" makes its way down the K-Bay flightline after arriving June 15.

## 'Gray Ghost' soars into K-Bay's MCAF

**Pvt. Iain A. Schnaible**  
*Combat Correspondent*

After extensive repairs, the only C-20G Gulfstream IV aircraft in the Marine Corps, nicknamed the "Gray Ghost," reported in to its new duty station here June 15.

The aircraft was transferred to Marine Forces Pacific from the Marine Corps reserve component at Naval Air Facility, Andrews Air Force Base, Md. to support the airlift requirements of the Commander, MarForPac.

The Marine Corps Reserves operated the aircraft from April, 1995-February 1998 when the aircraft received severe damage during a tornado while parked at Miami International Airport.

Congress allocated \$11 million in the fiscal year 1999 Defense

Appropriations Act to repair the aircraft, and the contract for the repairs was awarded to Sabreliner Aircraft in St. Louis, Mo.

The aircraft underwent an almost total renovation before it was considered ready for delivery to MCAF.

As a final touch, the aircraft was painted gray, emblazoned with "United States Marines" across both sides of the fuselage and inscribed with an Eagle, Globe and Anchor on either side of the tail, earning it its nickname.

The C-20G is a slightly modified version of the Gulfstream IV civilian aircraft and is intended to move personnel and baggage, with limited cargo capacity.

The aircraft can carry a maximum of 26 passengers or cargo at the sacrifice of some passenger

seats. The Gray Ghost is also a remarkably graceful ride, maximizing pilot, crew and passenger comfort, said Cmdr. Tom Hinderleider, commanding officer of the Navy's Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 51, a C-20G squadron.

"It flies fantastically," said Cmdr. Hinderleider, who acted as the aircraft commander for the Gray Ghost's maiden voyage from St. Louis to K-Bay. "It is so smooth; it's a joy to fly. I'm amazed how they were able to put this plane back together."

The Gray Ghost seems to have found a new, loving home with the Marines and Sailors of MCAF.

As well the Gray Ghost has proved itself ready to serve, flying a mission to Guam less than 24 hours after arriving at its new abode.

## DoD panel proposes sweeping personnel changes

**Army Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem**  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — The American public holds the military in high regard, but "the propensity to serve is very low," a high-level Pentagon adviser said June 13.

Retired Adm. David Jeremiah, a former vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters that the military needs a personnel system designed for "changing demographics" and better pay for mid-grade enlisted members to deal with the issue.

Adm. Jeremiah led a far-reaching review of quality-of-life and morale issues at the request of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. He briefly went over the panel's 60-some recommendations in the Pentagon briefing.

He said the military has a personnel system with "no real structure, no

strategy that deals with human resources in the (Defense) Department across the board, not just military but civilians and contractors as well.

"What you have is a system that is basically 50 years old and has been 'Band-Aided' over the years to accommodate different stresses and strains on it," he said.

The current up-or-out system "works OK, ... but doesn't necessarily recognize the individual needs of the services," Adm. Jeremiah said. He said more flexible retirement systems, including allowing certain career fields to get some retirement benefits before 20 years and not forcing others out at 30 years, might be smart ways to do business.

"We need to know what kinds of skills and experience we're going to need for our transformed force. ... We may not want a 60-year-old infantryman ...

See CHANGES, A-10



# MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

## PUBLIC FIREWORKS SHOWS

Tuesday	Aloha Tower	8:30-9 p.m.
Wednesday	Magic Island	8:30-9 p.m.
Wednesday	Kailua	7:30-8 p.m.
Wednesday	Schofield	7:30-8 p.m.

## FIREWORKS SAFETY

According to Prevent Blindness America, each year, more than 13,000 fireworks victims are treated at our nation’s medical facilities during the 4th of July holiday. More than half of the injured are children.

Fire works are dangerous! Enjoy the holiday safely and leave the fireworks to the professionals.

Remember, fireworks are not approved for use aboard MCB Hawaii and other DOD installations.

For those residing off base, non-aerial common fireworks purchased with a permit are approved for private residential areas between the hours of 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. on July 4 only.

Off base, follow these safety tips:

- Comply with the local fireworks ordinance (HRS 132D State Fireworks Control Law)
- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Read and follow all warnings and instructions.
- Clear people out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Use flat surfaces that are clear of homes and combustibles.
- Never re-light fireworks that have not fully functioned.
- People with respiratory ailments should remain indoors or find a safe haven.
- Keep a bucket of water available in case of fire or malfunction.
- To report a fire in your home. Dial 911 off base.

Call the Base Safety at 257-1830 for info.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY CONCERT

Marine Corps Base Hawaii will host its annual Independence Day concert featuring the Marine Forces Pacific Band. The event is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. Wednesday at Dewey Square aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. The event is free and open to the public.

The band is also scheduled to participate in the annual Kailua Independence Day Parade scheduled to kick off at 10 a.m. down Kainalu Road in Kailua. The 3rd Marine Regiment color guard will lead the festivities.

# Hawaii MARINE

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# Skinny Dragons continue their winning streak with ‘Isbell Trophy’

Navy Lt. Mark Brummett  
VP-4 Public Affairs

After winning the Battle ‘E’ Award for Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Squadrons in the Pacific Fleet, Patrol Squadron 4 has continued its winning streak with the presentation of the Capt. Arnold Jay Isbell Trophy for calendar year 2000.

Sponsored by the manufacturer of the P-3 Orion, Lockheed Martin, the Isbell Trophy was presented during a special ceremony in the Skinny Dragon hangar at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Presenting the award

for Lockheed Martin was retired Navy Capt. Tom Sprague who is the head of the P-3 Business Development Program.

This award is given for outstanding Anti-Submarine Warfare accomplishments, the award is given to patrol squadrons, sea control squadrons, and helicopter anti-submarine squadrons.

Each Atlantic and Pacific Fleet commander submits a list of nominees to the Chief of Naval Operations, who renders the final decision.

Squadrons are judged by their degree of professionalism and effectiveness during the previous year.

The Skinny Dragons demonstrated their merit “on-station” while supporting Seventh Fleet operations during a recent six-month deployment. Maintaining deployment sites in Misawa and Okinawa, Japan, VP-4 flew more than 4,800 hours and conducted 27 multi-national exercises. The area of responsibility assigned to VP-4 was a vast amount of ocean, including parts of Alaska, China, Thailand, and as far south as Australia.

One of the most significant factors that contributed in the selection of the Skinny Dragons as the

Isbell Trophy recipient was the real-world ASW actions taken throughout the deployment. Six submarine exercises were conducted in the six-months VP-4 was stationed in the Western Pacific, including diesel and nuclear powered vessels. These exercises further highlighted the role of the P-3 Orion as the Navy’s leading ASW platform.

“The amount of training that is involved in work-ups before deployment and the commitment every member of the squadron has during deployment is immense. To have the opportunity to use what you have learned against a real world submarine in an unfriendly environment gives you a great sense of pride in your profession”, said Chief Petty Officer Bret Thrailkill.

The trophy, named for Navy Capt. Arnold Jay Isbell, served in the U.S. Navy during the first half of the century and World War II. After earning his “wings of gold” at the Pensacola Naval Flight School, Capt. Isbell later became the commanding officer of Patrol Squadron 54. During World War II, as commander of the escort carrier USS Card, the task group was responsible for the sinking of ten German U-boats.

Capt. Isbell was killed in April 1945 in a Japanese air attack while waiting to assume the command of the USS Yorktown. In his honor, the destroyer was named the USS Isbell later that same year and saw action during the Korean War.



AMH3 Blake Metcalf, VP-4

**Petty Officer 1st Class Timothy Gonsalves and Petty Officer 2nd Class Tanya Castro accept the Isbell Trophy on behalf of VP-4 from retired Navy Capt. Tom Sprague of the Lockheed Martin Corporation. As members of CAC-9, Gonsalves and Castro are acoustic sensor operators that played a valuable role in the ASW success the squadron had in the past year. Joining Skinny Dragon Commanding Officer Cmdr. Doug Yancey are Tom Weatherall (far left) and Tim Hodges (far right), the P-3 technical representative manager at K-Bay.**

# Marines tour Guam-based MV Button

Cpl. Jacques-René Hébert  
MarForPac Public Affairs

HONOLULU – Marine Forces Pacific Marines from Camp H.M. Smith received a tour June 19 aboard the MV William R. Button, which was

docked outside of Honolulu. The Button, a maritime prepositioning ship, specializes in carrying supplies and vehicles needed by Marine ground forces.

According to the ship’s captain, Joel Wildgen, these vessels can sail

anywhere in the world and quickly deliver their cargo. Whether they sail to heated conflicts or for humanitarian aid, the Button is an important tool in helping implement U.S. foreign policy.

“The goal for MPS’s such as the Button is to be within the areas of responsibility important to us,” commented Capt. Gina Foltz, MarForPac’s maritime prepositioning force officer. “We need to have ships there, ready to go, with the equipment and vehicles we need to accomplish our mission.”

Based in Guam, MV Button is one of four MPS’s that contain all the fuel, ammunition, food, water, artillery, tanks, and combat service support equipment to support more than 14,000 Marines and Sailors for 30 days of prolonged combat, according to Wildgen. The Button and her sister ships are afloat at various places around the globe, in preparation for rapid deployment to troubled locations.

Once the Marines and Sailors rendezvous with the ships, their reaction time is near instantaneous. The ships can be completely off-loaded pier side in 72 hours, and can be offloaded in-stream in just seven days.

The 46,000-ton vessel is made up of a crew of 30 civilians, all Merchant Marines, who generally serve for four months at sea, followed by two months off. The ship also has the space to be reinforced with 100 Marines and Sailors in time of war or combat. The tour was an eye-opener for MarForPac Marines.

“The tour gave us an understanding of how Marines can function in a deployed environment,” said Sgt. Dave Houtz, an intelligence analyst for MarForPac. “It’s obvious that we couldn’t function without them.”



Cpl. Jacques-René Hébert

**The MV William R. Button, a maritime prepositioning ship, docks outside of Honolulu, recently.**

# Toys for Tots seeks Marine Corps Marathon runners for race team

Marine Toys for Tots Foundation  
Press Release

WASHINGTON, DC – The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation announced today that Team Toys for Tots is once again being formed to participate in the 26th Annual U.S. Marine Corps Marathon on Sunday, October 28, 2001.

MTFTF has purchased 20 slots for this year’s Marine Corps Marathon with the confidence that

each team member will obtain sponsorship(s) to raise \$2,500 for Toys for Tots.

If all team members are successful in this endeavor, the team will assist the Foundation in raising \$50,000 to help needy children nationwide during the 2001 Christmas holiday season.

If interested in participating as a member of Team Toys for Tots, contact Major Brian A. Murray, USMC (Ret) at 703-640-9433 or by email: murrayba@nt.quantico.usmc.mil.





Although the Javelin only requires one Marine to fire it, the use of an assistant gunner is applied. Teamwork is essential to the Corps and both Marines must know how to fire the weapon and assist the other in tracking a target.

## Javelin 'smart missile' training simulators make their debut at 3/3

Story and photos by  
**Cpl. Roman Yurek**  
Combat Correspondent

A group of Marines can hear the low rumble of a tank, in the distance as its treads tear through the earth on course to a nearby bunker.

Two of the Marines lay on the ground providing security for their comrades, while the other two setup their M98A-1 Javelin missile system.

Once they have targeted the tank, the gunner fires the missile. After a tenth of a second, the missile launches out of the tube and the rocket boosters start-up, sending the projectile soaring towards the sky.

As the missile travels up, the tank continues to move across. This weapon tracks the movement, makes adjustments and soon plummets down onto the top of the tank, piercing through the metal and destroying it.

The "smart missile" is no longer only seen in movies. On June 14 the Javelin Section, Weapons Co., 3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, received its first training simulators for the system, said Staff Sgt. Bruce Byrd, the section leader.

"Thursday [June 14] I began giving classes," said Byrd. "The Marines are taking pretty well to the gear."

The tube-launched weapon looks similar to the M47 Dragon, but the advantages of the Javelin make it superior to the Dragon.

A Dragon has a range of 1,000 meters in contrast with the Javelin has a



The M98 A-1 Javelin is a new missile system that Hawaii Marines are learning to operate, as well as the entire Marine Corps. This system can fire a missile that can track the movement of a target and then drops down on the target from above.

range of more than 2,000 meters.

Another feature of the Javelin that benefits the Marines firing it is the livability rate.

"This is a great weapon for the simple fact of increased livability," said Cpl. Christopher Morgan, a squad leader for the section. "We can be more mobile and there is no extra gear to worry about. Also, it is about time we got rid of the Dragon; the oldest one I saw was made in 1960."

When the Dragon was fired, the gunner kept the target in the cross hairs of his sight until the missile hit. Once fired, the back of the Dragon shot a flame from the rocket boosters of the missile. The flame and time needed for the target destroyed left the fire team open to enemy attack.

Once a Marine has a target locked on with the Javelin, all the Marine needs to do is fire the missile and leave.

The Command Launch Unit on the weapon can remember the target's location with the use of a camera. Therefore, the gunner doesn't need to track the round as it approaches the target.



The training simulators are attached to a screen that allows the assistant gunner to see exactly what the gunner sees. This way the A-gunner can tell the gunner which way to move to find a target.

Currently the unit trains with four simulators designed for the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer and three that are used with the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System.

"Even though we won't get a live round for a few years, we are working with the exact equipment that is on the live weapon," said Byrd.

For the time being, Marines will continue to use the ISMT and MILES trainers to become proficient with the new system. However, the 3/3 Marines weren't the first in 3rd Marines to receive the Javelin training gear and begin transitioning to the new system.

Before deployment to Okinawa, Japan, 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, became the first battalion in the regiment to use the Javelin trainers. Byrd said that later this year 2nd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, will also begin training with the new system.

With this system Marine gunners and assistant gunners will have a better chance of firing the weapon and moving to a new position. By the time the enemy can spot them, the "smart" Javelin missile, as Byrd referred to it, will be falling from the sky on top of them.



A Marine from the Javelin section of 3/3, practices locking on targets from atop Kansas Tower last week. These Marines used the training simulators for the first time for the battalion.

## WORD ON THE STREET

### What does Independence Day mean to you?



"It is a yearly reminder of what our forefathers went through to claim our independence."

**Petty Officer 2nd Class Chelsea R. Bavas**  
Dental technician  
21st Dental Co.

"To recognize the sacrifices of our founding fathers so we can have our freedom."

**1st Lt. James M. Bechtel**  
S-4 officer  
2/3

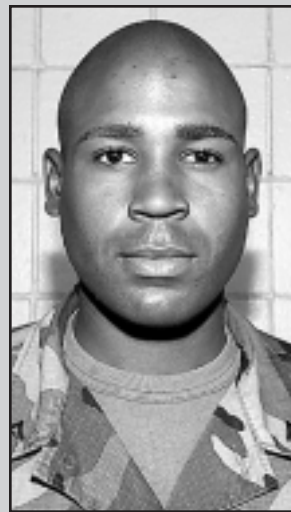


"It helps me remember our history of being an independent nation... and of course, a day off! Ooorah."

**Petty Officer 3rd Class Philip B. Nacionales**  
Sterilization technician  
21st Dental Co.

"Liberty; we choose our own destiny without someone deciding it for us. We have rights in this country that other countries and their people don't have."

**Lance Cpl. Orlando J. Baez**  
Embarkation specialist  
H&S Co.,  
1/3



"A day to reflect on the freedom we enjoy that people in other countries don't have."

**Cyndi Malinen**  
Fitness director  
Semper Fit Center

"It means holding your head up high, because the people before us fought and died for what they believed in — freedom."

**Sgt. Craig A. Brinkman**  
Maintenance chief  
Alpha Battery, 1/12





# Pearl Harbor to host July 4th block party with fireworks spectacular, public invited

**JoAnne Yow-Fairchild**  
*Pearl Harbor MWR*

Pearl Harbor is embracing America’s Independence Day with the biggest and the best party on this side of the Pacific — the July 4th Block Party and Aerial Fireworks Spectacular.

Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., several streets in the heart of Pearl Harbor will be opened only to foot traffic for a big, blow-out block party filled wonderful activities aimed to please everyone.

Since its inception more than a decade ago, the July 4th Block Party and Aerial Fireworks Spectacular at Pearl Harbor has attracted thousands of party-goers from around the island for a day of non-stop fun and entertainment. A myriad of activities geared for all ages has been planned throughout the day.

**Family Fun Entertainment**

Carnival Games & Food by EK Fernandez features all your favorites food, from hot dogs and burgers to shave ice and plate lunches. Win the “grand daddy” of stuffed animals in a variety of carnival games, including ring toss, hy-striker and more.

July 4th Craft Fair showcases more than 40 vendors and their homemade artsy keepsakes, Hawaiian crafts and much more.

Keiki Farm Petting Zoo has friendly animals to play with the keiki for free.

Nozawa’s Ark Pony Rides take your keiki on unforgettable galloping fun.

EuroBungee      Trampoline

combines the thrill of jumping & flipping on a safe and sizable trampoline.

Glow-In-The-Dark Galaxy Bubbles Tent takes you into a fantasy world of kaleidoscopic bubbles.

A 33-foot Tsunami Wave Slide is the latest and hottest monstrous slide on the island. The twin sliding lanes more than double the fun.

Rock Climbing Wall offers aspiring mountaineers a safe and challenging setting for a great adventure.

Rock ‘Em & Sock ‘Em says it all. Challenge a friend or a foe.

Xtreme Fun Xpress Train takes keiki on a memorable joy ride on party grounds.

The Jurassic Survivor Obstacle Course challenges the brave on a 360-degree obstacle course.

Other activities, including a variety of keiki inflatables, a Merry-Go-Round ride, Wheel of Fortune game, joust About, Medieval Renaissance Pavilion and much, much more.

**Live Entertainment (Free admission)**

**2-2:45 p.m. Baton Twirlers**

Award-winning baton twirlers from across the U.S. will open the stage with impressive twirling and spinning skills using batons, flags, hoops, ribbons and poms.

**3-4 p.m. “America’s Freedom”**

A musical patriotic revue performed by the Hurrah Players—a cast of talented aspiring actors and actresses from Norfolk, Virginia. Lavish costumes and

popular tunes from a bygone era will all be part of this theatrical extravaganza.

**4:30-5:30 p.m. J.P. Smoketrain**

A Chicago-style blues band, J.P. Smoketrain has played alongside such luminaries as Buddy Guy and BB King. Blues lovers will not want to miss this great performance.

**5:30-6 p.m. Au’s Shaolin Chinese Lion Dance**

In Hawaii, a celebration of this magnitude calls for a major drumming hoopla. A cultural Chinese Lion Dance by Au’s Shaolin Arts Society will perform this “good luck” festivity with 10,000 Chinese firecrackers. Don’t forget to “feed” the lion for good fortune to come your way.

**6-7 p.m. Ka’ala Boys**

The fabulous Ka’ala Boys need no introduction! This dynamic group of seasoned songsters and musicians is the hottest Hawaiian Contemporary band on the Island.

**7:30-8:30 p.m. The Dick Jensen Show**

Dick Jensen is arguably the most polished professional entertainer in Hawaii. He headlined numerous hotels in Las Vegas and appeared twice in the Ed Sullivan Show. His dazzling showmanship and top-notch entertainment make this a must-see show.

**8:30-9 p.m. Guido Salmaggi & Fireworks Display**

A prelude to the spectacular Grucci Brothers Fireworks display, Guido Salmaggi, formerly of the New York City Opera, will deliver an incredible rendition of the National Anthem. Fifteen glorious minutes of the world-famous pyrotechnics will follow. Don’t miss it.

**9-10 p.m. “Honolulu” The Band**

This sensational show band was voted “Band of the Year” in Reno, Nevada. Their unique Las Vegas-style performance has charmed Islanders and visitors alike for many years.

More Entertainment...

On Stage 2, sponsored by Coca Cola, an array of entertainment has been scheduled, including live bands—The Woodrose and Women with Guitars, a Baton Twirling Show, MWR Iroquois Point Cheer & Dance Team, Hawaii Okinawan Karate demonstration and much more.

**Sports for Big Kids**

**2-4 p.m. Boxing Tournament**

Get your front row seats early to enjoy some of the best amateur boxing on the Island. This year’s event features James Picarra, the runner-up of the recent Hawaii Golden Glove Tournament.

**3 p.m., 4:30 p.m. & 6 p.m. Unidos Car Hopping Competition**

Lowriding has definitely reached new heights here in Hawaii. Dozens of low riding cars and trucks will be vying for titles and big cash and will show

off their stuff in the “Show ‘n’ Shine” exhibition area. Last year’s champion—a Mazda pickup truck, which hopped 53 inches, will be back to defend its title.

**2-10 p.m. Auto Exhibition**

This is an automobile aficionados’ dream world. A display of the best collection from Hawaii Corvette Association, the 50th State Pro Gas Association (a non-profit car racing organization), JN Chevrolet and Harley Davidson are for all to enjoy.

**Schedule of Events**

A schedule of events with activity times and locations will be available at the event. For contractual and safety reasons, coolers, animals, tents and outside food and beverages are not permitted on party grounds.

The general public is invited. Parking and access to the base will be available at Naval Station Pearl Harbor’s Bloch Arena on Center Drive near Nimitz Gate.

Admission is free. Vehicular access to Pearl Harbor will remain restricted to DoD personnel with a valid DoD sticker and identification card. All activities are subject to change without prior notice.

Presented by Naval Station Pearl Harbor MWR, this event is part of MWR’s continuing effort to provide enhanced quality of life programs to sailors and their family members. For more information about the July 4th Block Party, call the MWR hotline at 473-2434.



COMMENTARY

# Being a ‘grunt’ tests resolve, character

**Sgt. Eric McLeroy**  
*31st MEU Public Affairs*

**ARABIAN PENINSULA** – My feet hurt. They ache from hours of standing and stepping. They feel like they are going to quit under the weight of my own body. Sharp slivers of pain slither along my back and shoulders. My load-bearing vest grows heavier by the minute and I can’t see much point in carrying my pack much further. But I have to.

If they’re carrying theirs, I have to carry mine. They’ve been out here longer than I have, enduring the harsh desert heat and unrelenting sandstorms. They are grunts and I’m not.

They’ve been here before and all over the world. This is where they work. In the darkness of triple-canopy jungles of Southeast Asia and the wastelands of the Arabian Peninsula, they’re at work.

I can’t pretend to know what’s it like to be one of them, and I don’t try. I’m as much a grunt as a music lover is a musician. I’m not envious either. I know they’re profession is hard. I mean that.

It’s not a job; these men aren’t workers or employees. They’re professionals. Some start at 17, and are responsible day and night for the well being of the Marines around them. They don’t work in an office, and aren’t tasked with finding new ways of generating money for the company. They’re professionals responsible for safeguarding the Unites States and enforcing foreign policy abroad.

It’s hard. They exist with little recognition for their valiant

efforts. Salaries don’t measure up to their tireless devotion. They’re often asked to do things, they would otherwise never agree to. They cook for each other, clean for each other, and could possibly die for each other.

I’m not one of them, but I watch them with a sense of intrigue. I’m a tourist, passing through their lives snapping pictures along the way. It’s part of my job to ask them questions and record their comments, but that doesn’t matter to them.

I could be on vacation, taking a trip to the field to see how Marines live. It’s all the same to them, an outsider moving in. They know I don’t spend the majority of my time there, and realize that it’s not my office. Even athletes return to the locker room, but the game is played on the field, and that’s where all the action is.

It’s not all explosions and fighting out here. It’s quiet sometimes. When the engines stop running and the guns aren’t firing, and the Marines are waiting, it’s very quiet. It’s like they’re part of the environment, sucked into their surroundings.

Their faces are as weather-beaten as the large, exposed stones that have endured hundreds of years of abuse. Their flesh is sun-ruddy and painted with sand and sweat. Their hands are callused and swollen from handling shovels, packs, weapons and rounds.

When they’re waiting, they hide their exhausted faces under their boonie covers, handkerchiefs, or arms. Sometimes they looked tired, digging for the last spoonful of chow from the thin plastic sleeve of an

MRE. No one likes to be the first to admit he’s tired. They usually make decisions as a group.

The fire team, squad and platoon are all that matter. They know each other well, and they don’t take long talks over coffee to share details. Their conversations are as harsh as nature’s wrath. Everything is fair game when it comes to humility.

They have thick skin as tough as Kevlar, and they enjoy testing it. Topics that are deep rooted in feelings and soul are ripped into the open and thrashed for the group to enjoy. They’re stronger afterward.

They can’t afford to be timid or weak willed. Those who are get sniffed out early and exposed. That’s a Marine’s job: to make sure his buddy is tougher than he is, because the buddy will do the same. He won’t ask for an apology for being yelled at, beg to be treated with more respect, or complain of the lack of sensitivity. They don’t have time for it.

The enemy won’t shake hands first or play by the rules. They might not ever see the enemy up close. The weapons won’t get lighter and fighting doesn’t get easier and neither can they.

I won’t ever understand what it’s like to be a grunt. I won’t know what it feels like to come out of the field, dirty and tired and tromp through the rear area casting off the stares from support Marines. But I know enough not to spend my time asking.

The next time I see him, back in the rear, I won’t stop to throw trivial, polite chitchat at him. I’ll let him enjoy his time away from the field. He’s earned it.



Gunnery Sgt. Matthew Hevezi

**“Grunts” serve the Corps in every clime and place with tenacity and dedication that is often overlooked.**

# Summer Moves: Disbursing can save money, time, PCS headaches

**Cpl. Roman Yurek**  
*Combat Correspondent*

Moving from one duty station to another can be expensive, but Marines can receive reimbursement and other entitlements to assist them on their permanent change of station move.

Marines can learn about pay and travel entitlements through a class given by Cpls. Richard Flores, the pay noncommissioned officer, and Garry Osborne, the travel NCO, both from the base Disbursing Office, during the PCS Workshop.

Servicemembers might spend close to \$1,200 that is authorized for reimbursement, such as food, lodging and mileage, according to the 1999 Permanent Change of Station Cost Survey. Also, they might spend more than \$1,700 that is not authorized for reimbursement.

Marines rate 58 cents on the dollar for authorized reimbursement.

“Advance pay and advance Basic Housing Allowance are the two most used entitlements by Marine PCSing,” said Flores.



Pay entitlements include Basic Allowance for Subsistence, Cost of Living Allowance, Basic Allowance for Housing and advances.

The CoLA pay is given to all Marines upon checking in to their unit in Hawaii. This pay stops a day prior to leaving the island.

The other half of this class focuses around travel entitlements.

There is one entitlement may not be well known to many Marines. That is the Dislocation Allowance.

This allowance goes to Marines with a family, Marines with no family that are transferring to a station where government quarters are not available and all staff sergeants and above.

“Dislocation Allowance is used to move household good and establish a residence,” said Osborne. “What people may not know is that they can receive advance DLA as well.”

Some of the other travel entitlements include Mileage Allowance in Lieu of Transportation and Per Diem.

Servicemember should remember that the government will furnish the least expensive mode of travel, unless the servicemember decides to drive. And all Per Diem varies depending on the location a servicemember is traveling to.

To check Per Diem rates, visit the Per Diem Committee at [www.dfas.mil/perdiem](http://www.dfas.mil/perdiem).

For more information on pay and travel entitlements, contact PAY at 257-5184 and TRAVEL at 257-1470.

Anyone expecting a PCS move should attend the PCS Workshop. The next class is scheduled for July 11. To reserve a seat call the Personal Service Center of Marine Corps Community Services at 257-7790 or 7787.



# EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

## Boat Company Marines bring live fire to the Arabian desert

**Sgt. Eric McLeroy**  
*11th MEU Public Affairs*

**ARABIAN PENINSULA** – The platoon huddled in a half-circle beneath camouflage netting and listened to their platoon sergeant talk about desert survival techniques. The netted canopy cast a cool, gray shadow over the Marines. Outside, the sun baked the sand to temperatures above 100 degrees, and Sgt. Nicholas Lerma, platoon sergeant, 2nd Plt. was eager to point out the lethality of the desert heat.

Fox Company, Battalion Landing Team 2/1, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) spent three days, June 9-11, in the desert here and conducted weapons familiarization training as part of Exercise Red Reef 12.

The company is the MEU’s designated boat company, and prior to leaving Southern California in March, they spent months honing their skills of clandestine, over the horizon raids using their small, black Combat Rubber Raiding Crafts. Here, away from the water and surrounded by desert, they focused on weapons.

The Marines welcomed the chance to fire weapons ranging from missiles to machineguns.

But first, they had to get used to the heat.

They rode their boats ashore after launching from the stern-gate of the USS Cleveland [LPD-7] during the morning of the first day. Once ashore, the heat seemed to radiate from the sun-scorched sand and acted as a hidden enemy, quietly attacking the Marines throughout the day.

Lerma told his Marines, huddled under the canopy, not to lie on the ground. It’s the hottest place to be, he said. He continued with his informal class on desert survival and explained how to find water in the desert, how to find shelter, and signal for help. It was an impromptu class before the Marines headed out to the live-fire ranges.

When the Marines of Fox Company clambered out of 5-ton trucks the next day, they were met by the sun’s ferocious flares and blinding light as it seemed to shine up from the sand instead of from the sky. Their tan desert camouflage uniforms dripped sweat, but they were prepared.

The Marines were constantly drinking water and slowly growing accustomed to the harsh, barren desert heat that seemed to welcome death rather than nourish life.

The landscape was littered



Sgt. Eric McLeroy

**A Marine from Fox Co., BLT 2/1, fires a Shoulder-launched Multipurpose Assault Weapon during Exercise Read Reef 12, which took place on the Arabian Peninsula.**

with gray bushes, the tallest reaching knee-high and looked more like the tumbleweeds of the American deserts. Lizards scurried across the tan and brown peppered, beach-like sand while beetles, scorpions and camel spiders roamed the

desert floor - the only other signs of life here.

The desert was quiet and seemingly lifeless. But occasionally, the wind screamed across the desert carrying sand, which erased the divots left behind by the Marines. The thundering ex-

plosions of rockets and mortars soon overshadowed that sound.

“Ambrose, you ready to rock!” shouted a Weapons Plt. section chief.

The question didn’t call for an

*See ECAP, A-11*

REGIMENT, From A-1

In 1987, Col. Peele became the first commanding officer of the west coast’s Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team Co., Marine Corps Security Force Bn., Pacific, Naval Station, Mare Island, Vallejo, Calif.

Although he has served in Hawaii for the past two years, his first trip to the island was in 1994, when he assumed command of 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment. He later served in the Plans Division of Marines Forces Pacific, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii.

After a mere two years off the island, he returned to command 3rd Marines.

“This has been a highlight and one of the most unique experiences I’ve had,” said Col. Peele. “The regiment gets very excited about coming together and working as a Marine Air Ground Task Force, then going out to demonstrate their capabilities for special operations.”

When he was serving as the CO for the regiment, Col. Peele took Marines to common training grounds such as the Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii, and to far off places like Australia. Though one might think that working away from home is a challenge, only one challenge confronts Col. Peele:

“My only challenge is the one[I place] on myself, for the most part,” said the contemplative colonel. “I am consistently questioning if I am giving these Marines the quality leadership they deserve.”

His self-imposed challenge is one that will follow him everywhere in the Marine Corps.

In reality, besides changing command,

both of these colonels are also exchanging duty stations. Colonel Medina was serving at the Enlisted Recruiting Operations and Plans Office at Marine Corps Recruiting Command Quantico, Va. — exactly where Colonel Peele is heading.

Colonel Medina said he is prepared to take on the position and command of 3rd Marine Regiment.

The new CO, a Port Huenueme, Calif., native began his career with 5th Marines, but transferred in 1980 to 3rd Marine Division in Okinawa, Japan.

He served with 2nd Bn., 4th Marines, as the battalion adjutant and company commander for Fox Co.

By May of 1985, Col. Medina completed the Amphibious Warfare School as an Honor graduate, and was assigned as the company commander for Weapons Co., 3rd Bn., 5th Marines.

This was his last command of a fleet unit. From 1988 to 1994, Col. Medina served as a Marine instructor/associate professor of Naval sciences for the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps, Penn State University. During this tour, he served as the executive and company commander for two summer assignments at the Officer Candidate School, Quantico, Va.

From there, he was selected for lieutenant colonel and reported to the 2nd Marine Division.

While serving as the battalion commander for 3rd Bn., his unit was deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for Operation Sea Signal in 1995 and participated in the Unit



Cpl. Roman Yurek

Col. Peele shakes hands with Col. Medina, the oncoming commanding officer of 3rd Marine Regiment. The two changed command in a ceremony Thursday.

Deployment Program to Okinawa. Prior to going to the recruiting command, Col. Medina spent three years overseas. During this time, he attended the NATO Defense College in Rome. Upon graduation he was assigned as the contingency plans branch chief for Headquarters, U.S. European Command.

Once he attained the rank of colonel, he became the chief of operations and plans di-

vision for the command and in January 2000 he was transferred to the Marine Corps Recruiting Command.

Upon receiving command of 3rd Marines last week, Col. Medina gave more than 2,000 Marines and Sailors of the unit something to look forward to.

“Everyday you can wake up and say you’re in 3rd Marine Regiment [will be] a good day,” he said.

CHANGES, From A-1

but I’d be happy to have a 60- year-old information warrior,” Adm. Jeremiah said. “He or she has probably got 15 or 20 years of experience in the business, knows how to do it, [and] knows all the tricks of the trade.

“There are different needs out there,” he said. “The one- size-fits-all [system] doesn’t work anymore.” The admiral called a flexible retirement system “the most fundamental” recommendation to come out of his panel’s review.

The QOL study is just one of what have come to be called “the Rumsfeld Reviews.” It was begun to “stimulate the secretary’s thinking” on the myriad issues relating to quality of life and morale.

Higher education levels in the enlisted force have made the pay gap for mid-level enlisted grades larger than the gap for other grades, Adm. Jeremiah said. He noted that nearly 80 percent of enlisted

members have “some college” by the time they’ve been in the service 10 years.

“We now find many enlisted people with ... more than one bachelor’s degree or master’s degrees,” the admiral said. “So it’s a different force than the high school graduates — if we were lucky and ahead of the sheriff — that we got 50 years ago.”

He said the gap results from DoD paying these ranks on the assumption they are high-school grads only, not individuals with some college or with college degrees. He recommended President Bush’s recent pledge of \$1.4 billion more in military pay raises be targeted to mid-grade enlisted servicemembers.

Excess bases make their upkeep nearly impossible. The solution: fewer bases and a commitment to maintain the ones we keep, Adm. Jeremiah said. He said old workspaces in disrepair hurt morale and make people in the military wonder what the country thinks of them.

The study also recognized the face of the military is changing. Adm. Jeremiah said some estimates see the military being much more heavily Hispanic in coming years and that DoD should work to recruit these individuals now so there can be more Hispanic leaders in future years.

High operations tempo and the increased use of Guard and Reserve forces were also noted as quality-of-life problem areas. “This is a world in which we’re not at war and we’re not at peace,” Adm. Jeremiah said. “The peace that we’re in is the absence of major war, but it isn’t peace as we know it, and it demands an enormous amount of activity on the part of the military members in the force.”

Housing is one area DoD can make significant improvements in a relatively short amount of time — and the department should do just that, Adm. Jeremiah stressed. The military needs “better housing sooner,” he said.

KOA THUNDER, From A-1

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron(AW) 242, from Iwakuni, Japan.

Despite being under the watchful eye of the 1st MAW staff during the exercise many of the Marines from the ASEK are highly motivated about going to Guam and perform their jobs in a foreign environment, according to Lt. Col. Mark C. Sempf, commanding officer of HMH 463.

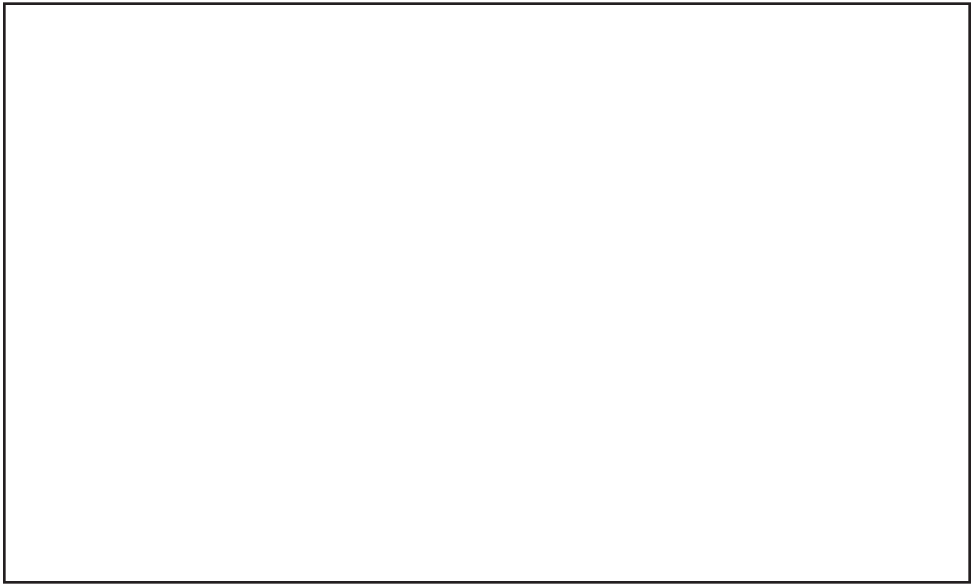
“The Marines here are very excited about “Koa Thunder” because it gives them the opportunity to get out into the theater and deploy to do their jobs,” said Lt. Col. Sempf. “It comes into the essence of what Marines join the Corps for; they want to go and deploy, they want to see other countries, they want to

go practice their jobs at the tip of the spear.

“Here is a great opportunity for a lot of the young Marines who have only been in Hawaii. This is their chance to deploy.”

With the main body of Marines from the ASEK not expected to arrive in Guam until the first week of July, Exercise “Koa Thunder” is not expected to wrap up until either late July or early August.

For many of the younger Marines from the ASEK Exercise, “Koa Thunder” will be their chance to experience another country and its culture while completing its mission in supporting the 31st MEU and conducting the training it normally doesn’t have a chance to do.





MILITARY POLICE BLOTTER

Traffic Court

There were 69 traffic citations for the week of 15-21 June.

The Blotter

- A Civilian was backing his vehicle and ran into a handrail.
- A Marine was apprehended after he threatened to inflict bodily harm on another Marine.
- A Marine was apprehended for reckless driving after he lost control of his vehicle.

- A Marine was arrested by HPD after he was involved in a 2nd degree assault. He was released pending investigation.
- A Civilian reported that person(s) unknown stole six unsecured and unattended pine boards from the MCX.
- A Marine’s wife reported that person(s) unknown entered her secured and unattended quarters.
- A Marine was apprehended for damage to government property and drunk and disorderly conduct after he punched a hole in a barracks room window.
- A Marine was apprehended for assault after he put a civilian employee in a chokehold.

- Two Civilians were detained after they failed to produce identification during a 100% ID check at the main gate. They were driving a vehicle recently purchased from a military member and using the DoD decal to come aboard base.
- A Marine reported that person(s) unknown stole her vehicle that she had left secured, with the keys in the ignition.
- A Civilian employee reported that person(s) unknown broke the mirror off of a school bus.
- A Marine reported that person(s) unknown stole a VCR from the barracks recreation room.
- A Marine was arrested by HPD for

Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. He had a BAC of .201%. Bail was set at \$250.00.

Neighborhood Watch

We are looking for neighborhood representatives to take charge of local neighborhood watch programs.

Crime Prevention

Call Crime Prevention for any assistance dealing with Crime Prevention issues or police issues.  
Contact Sgt. Kendra Gasper at 257-2103, ext. 314.

ECAP, From A-8

audible answer. Instead, Cpl. Dan Ambrose, forward observer, Weapons Plt. began preparing 60mm mortar rounds for a gun team to launch down range. A series of commands among the gun team followed. “Half-load!” LCpl. Mike Baity, 20, Concord, Calif. native commanded. Corporal Stewart Dill, 21, Decatur, Ill. answered back, “hanging,” as he placed a round just inside the M-224 60mm

mortar tube. As Baity zeroed in on the target through the weapons’ sights, he yelled, “fire.” Dill dropped the high-explosive round into the tube and pulled his hand back to his side with cat-like reflexes. The round spiraled through the air, in a high arch. As it soared, it looked like a tiny, black speck until it began its descent and exploded into the earth. Rounds were fired from all three of the platoon’s mortars. A volley of rounds blasted

into the air. Down range, the mortars landed with deafening explosions and smoke bellowed into mushrooms as they climbed higher into the sky. “It’s a good day when you get to fire a lot and you can see that you’re hitting something. That’s the best.” Baity said. On both flanks of the mortar crews, the company of Marines crouched behind various weapon systems firing hundreds of rounds at wooden targets that lay just within sight. Some Marines lay behind M-240

machineguns while others knelt, holding AT-4 anti-tank weapons on their shoulders. “This is the first time I’ve done something like this,” said Cpl. Raymond Gonzales, 20, Los Angeles native, 2nd Plt. “We just came out here and fired all kind of rounds.” The company fired more than 200 mortar rounds, eight AT-4 anti-tank rockets, six Shoulder-Launched Multipurpose Assault Weapon rockets, and hundreds of 5.56mm and 7.62mm rounds from machine-

guns and rifles. When the day ended, thousands of brass casings lay on the deck in piles. The wind carried the smell of gunpowder across the desert and the targets, now reduced to splinters, lay scattered on the range. The company’s training was a success, according to 1stLt. David Esola, platoon commander, Weapons Plt. “This was a good chance for some refresher training with the weapons,” he said. “It was a good time.”





Cpl. Jacques-René Hébert

Marines from 1st Radio Reconnaissance Co., 1st Radio Bn., battle the choppy seas during recent amphibious operation exercises at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.

# Radio Recon Marines storm MCTAB beaches

**Cpl. Jacques-René Hébert**  
*MarForPac Public Affairs Office*

**MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLOWS** – The turquoise waters that lap the beach at Bellows are home to a plethora of sea life. From sea turtles to jellyfish, the waters are abundant with marine wildlife, including the most feared of sea creatures – the U.S. Marine. Global in nature and aquatic in character, a small team of Marines from 1st Radio Reconnaissance Co. 1st Radio Bn., hit the beach at Bellows June 20-22 to practice amphibious operations. The six-man team – consisting of Sgt.

Billy Benedict, Sgt. Shaun Gordon, Cpl. Justin Cain, Cpl. Randy Gross, Cpl. Jimmy Trauth, and Lance Cpl. Jason Leighty – is preparing for deployment with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit in late July, according to Staff Sgt. Stephen Lawson, the 1st Radio Recon Co. operations chief. “So far, these Marines have performed well,” observed Lawson. “They’re actually one of the better teams I’ve worked with.” The aquatic training is part of a 14-week program designed to get the Radio Recon Marines ready for deployment with a MEU. Training includes such instruction as first aid, self-defense train-

ing, and counter-K-9 training. The period of instruction culminates in a large field training exercise where they employ all the knowledge and lessons gained in the last few weeks, including the aquatic operations. Everything from beach landings and water safety, to swimming and insertions, are covered in the period of instruction. “As part of a reconnaissance team, it is inherent to our nature that we could do a beach landing in a real-world situation,” stated Trauth. According to Trauth, there’s more to the exercise than just the training. “The boat operations are fun,” com-

mented Trauth. “Though they’re a crucial part of our training, we’re playing in the water all day, too.” It may take more than the casual observer to see there’s more to these Marines than meets the eye. According to Lawson, their reconnaissance training is only a minute aspect of their real purpose – the team members’ primary occupational specialties fall under linguistics or signals intelligence. “They may jump out of planes or insert on a beach,” explained Lawson, “but they have to realize that when they finally get to the site, they’re there to do

*See RECON, A-13*



RECON, From A-12

what their primary job is. The reconnaissance training only enhances their capabilities.”

Whether or not their objective is achieved by brawn or brain, the Marines of 1st Radio Reconnaissance Company possess expert intelligence skills and daunting reconnaissance abilities, making them unique – comfortable in both field and garrison situations.

“This is everything I hoped for from the Marine Corps,” smiled Trauth. “I have the best of both worlds, being in the field and in an intelligence billet.”

First Lt. Wendell Foster, a platoon commander for 1st Radio Recon, remains philosophical.

“The Marines of 1st RRC are exceptional,” Foster reflected. “Their role as intelligence and reconnaissance specialists integrates the Corps two greatest attributes – the cerebral and the primal.”



Photos by Cpl. Jacques-Rene Hebert

**Top:** Marines with 1st Radio Reconnaissance Co., 1st Radio Bn., perform troubleshooting maneuvers on an inflatable reconnaissance boat engine.

**Left:** 1st Recon Co. Marines lay out the necessary gear to begin their training evolution with the inflatable reconnaissance boat and its accessories. Marines with the company underwent amphibious operation training on the sandy beaches of MCTAB June 20-22 as part of preparations for a deployment with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit this summer.





# MPs take control of DEFY program

**Cpl. Roman Yurek**  
*Combat Correspondent*

An ideal fit with the objectives of the Military Police, this summer’s Drug Education for Youth Program will be sponsored by, the MCB Hawaii Military Police Co.

The DEFY program helps to develop social skills and self-esteem in 9-to 12-year-old children.

The program revolves around the interaction of participants with mentors.

In previous years, Marlena Kelly, the youth services coordinator, handled the program, but since she is scheduled to leave the program, DEFY has returned to the control of MP Co.

Even though there is a change in who runs the program, there should not be many modifications, said Sgt. Henry Jones, DEFY program director.

“I don’t want to make many changes,” Jones added. “Kelley had a great thing going here and I don’t want to mess that up.”

The DEFY program costs nothing, and Jones believes it helps mold children into responsible young men and women.

On July 31 there will be an orientation for all parents, which is mandatory for their children to participate on August 1 when the children and mentors will begin the eight-day course.

Registration for DEFY will begin July 2 and end July16. However, the

program can only accommodate 50 children. Besides participants, the DEFY program needs mentors who are willing to work with the children, have no criminal offenses dealing with physical or substance abuse and are able to complete the first phase of the program.

Marines and Sailors who want to be mentors can talk to Jones, and he will attempt to get them a chit allowing them to work with DEFY for the eight days of phase one.

Jones recalled last year’s DEFY session and the impact it had on the children’s self esteem.

“I remember one girl last year was real quiet and would keep to herself,” said Jones. “By graduation, she was running around, yelling and screaming and she became the one that we had to tell to be quiet.”

Drug Education for Youth classes will remain the same as previous years, but due to a budget change this year from DEFY Headquarters in Washington D.C., main change to the program will be the omission of high-priced field trips characteristic of the former program.

However, Jones does plan on taking the DEFY members to the Ropes Course, a confidence and team building obstacle course, in Ewa Beach and possibly bringing the children to a prison, to let them see where drug dealers and users end up.

“I want the children to not only hear our discussions but also to see

more by using hands-on experiences,” said Jones.

The group also plans to visit the USS Missouri and the Polynesian Cultural Center for more hands-on experiences.

Even though summertime permanent change of station moves may prevent children from taking full advantage of DEFY, Jones said that moving should not discourage parents from registering their children for phase one nor discourage people who would like to volunteer as mentors, since phase one is but eight days long.

Therefore, when registration begins, Jones encourages as many people — children and mentors — to sign up as possible, on the first come, first served basis. He needs at least eight mentors, one preferably with a bus license.

Looking ahead after the eight-day course and when the newly graduated DEFY members have returned to school, they will meet and talk once a month about a subject related to their lives, such as being able to take responsibility to do their schoolwork.

“Mentors are guides for the children,” said Jones. “They are there to help guide the children and inform them about some of the dangers they might face outside of school.”

To register a child, volunteer as a mentor, or for any further questions, contact Jones at 257-2103, ext. 336, 315 or 314.